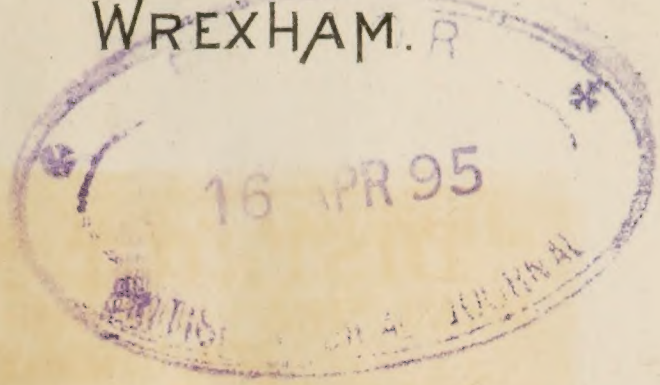


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

WREXHAM. R



Enclosed please  
find ~~the~~ report  
of Health Officer for  
the year ended 1894  
This is sent, as it  
is applied for.

15/- R. W. Evans

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1895



X



# WREXHAM TOWN COUNCIL.

## SANITARY, SEWAGE, AND FARM

### COMMITTEE.

**TUESDAY.**—Present: The Mayor (Councillor Murless) presiding, Alderman Bevan, Councillors Dr. H. V. Palin, J. Fraser, J. Whittingham, C. Davies, J. Hopley Pierce, J. A. Chadwick, R. Williamson, and Mr. Thomas Bury, town clerk; Mr. J. W. M. Smith, borough surveyor; Dr. R. W. J. Evans, medical officer of health; and Mr. Charles Moore, inspector of nuisances.

### THE CHAIR.

It having been stated that Alderman Samuel, the chairman of the Committee, was unable to be present owing to indisposition, the Mayor was elected to the

### THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH.

Dr. EVANS, the medical officer, presented his report for the year ended 31st December last, in which he stated that the number of births had been:—Males, 248; females, 214; total 462; giving an annual birth-rate of 34.20 per thousand inhabitants. The birth-rate for the previous year was 32.12. The number of deaths recorded was 186. Adding the deaths of 23 Wrexham persons who died in the Workhouse, and the deaths of seven persons who died in the Fever Hospital, and deducting the deaths of eight persons from the rural district who died in the Infirmary, the death rate was 12.33 per thousand, as against 22.72 in the previous year. This was the lowest annual death-rate on record. The death rates for the five previous years were:—1889, 17.98; 1890, 21.19; 1891, 17.23; 1892, 21.47; 1893, 22.72. The following is a summary of the ages at which death took place:—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	48
Over 1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	25
" 5 years and "	15	"	...	...	...	9
" 15 years and "	25	"	...	...	...	12
" 25 years and "	65	"	...	...	...	74

Sixty-five years of age and upwards ... 18

The proportion of deaths of children under five years of age to the total number of deaths was about 25 per cent. This mortality must be considered rather heavy, but the deaths were not due to local or insanitary causes; they were mostly due to the wasting diseases of children. There were 100 less deaths in the borough than in the year 1893, which went far to prove that the system of drainage, the water supply, and other improved sanitary arrangements were being carried out in the best possible manner.

Thirteen deaths had taken place from zymotic diseases—four of persons over five years of age—and nine of children under five years, as compared with seven over five and twenty-two under five in the previous year, showing a decrease of 55 per cent. in the death returns. This must be considered highly satisfactory. The percentage of deaths from infectious diseases was six per cent. of the total death-rate, and considering that the town was the centre of a district with a population of about 60,000, nearly all of whom came there for purposes of trade, those figures spoke for themselves, and indicated that the sanitary arrangements of the borough were well cared for.

As to infectious diseases 220 notifications had been received, and a hundred cases were admitted to the Sanitary Hospital. During the latter portion of the year scarlet fever was epidemic; of the admissions to the hospital 85 suffered from this complaint. It was throughout of a mild type, and one death only occurred in the borough. A careful and systematic inspection of property had been made in those parts of the town, where the working-classes were housed, and in five cases notices had been served on owners in respect of insanitary dwellings—notably those in Mount-yard and Davies-court, Pentrefelin. The Mount-yard property now compared favourably with any of a similar class in the borough, and that of Davies-court had been placed in a sanitary condition. In Meifod-place the drains and paving had been attended to, but nothing had been done with regard to additional water supply; there being only one tap to supply the tenants of all the houses.

During the last twelve months nine samples of food, viz., eight of milk and one of cheese had been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst. One sample of milk was found to be adulterated and the vendor was prosecuted and fined. The sample of cheese was also found to be adulterated, but owing to a point of law a conviction was not obtained, though a moral victory was gained, for that class of cheese was not now on sale.

The registered common lodging-houses had been regularly visited, and there was a marked improvement in their cleanliness. In one or two cases it had been necessary to call attention to the necessity of a little extra use of soap and water and whitewash. He particularly desired to call the attention of the authority to the very great want of a model lodging-house, conducted on modern lines, which want he was sure must be apparent to anyone who had the opportunity of seeing how the nightly lodger was put up in Wrexham as compared with other towns, where model lodging-houses were provided. Unregistered lodging-houses still continued to give trouble, and overcrowding, and want of proper bed-clothing, and total absence of cleanliness and sanitation had been discovered on surprise visits paid at midnight. Twelve cases had been reported during the year; prosecutions had taken place in six of the worst, and in all these convictions were obtained.

The factories and workshops in the borough had been inspected. No fault was found with the arrangements, with the exception that overcrowding was discovered in three cases. Notices were at once served on the offending persons, which were attended to almost immediately.

All the bakehouses had been inspected, and in the majority of cases were found clean, and properly conducted. In a few instances extra ventilation was advised.

The cowsheds, milkshops, and dairies had had special attention paid to them by Mr. C. Moore, inspector, to ascertain if any of the cases of infectious disease lately prevalent in the borough could be traced to the milk supply. He was pleased to say that the businesses were found to be carried on in a very satisfactory manner, and not one case of fever could be traced to the milk supply.

The town brook had given rise to several complaints as to the pollution which had been allowed to take place. On May last it was found that the Cobden Mill Co. was placing waste water in the brook which caused a fungoid growth. That, he was glad to say, had not appeared since. In December the pollution from the coal dust was very noticeable, and he was pleased that the Authority was giving that subject their attention.

He had made periodical visits to the Borough Farm. The sewerage system, together with the sewerage extension to Five Fords, appeared to work well. The regular and frequent flushings tended to keep the main drains clear. Flushing took place last summer more frequently than in any previous year. From visits made and examinations at the farm, he considered the affluents had been satisfactory, and Wrexham could be congratulated on having its sewage disposed of so easily and at the same time so efficiently.

The rain-fall for the year, as measured by the rain gauge at the Guildhall was 31.92 ins. The highest fall took place in January and the lowest in February, the former being 4.30, and the latter .7 inches.

Dr. DAVIES said after that report it would be well to advertise the town as a health resort.

The MAYOR said it must be gratifying to them to think that the sanitary state of the town must have contributed to the low death rate, which compared favourably with that of any year since the incorporation.

Alderman BEVAN in proposing the adoption of the report, said the Medical Officer must be complimented upon that elaborate and lucid report. There were one or two points that had struck him, and one was the creation of a model lodging-house, a point which would be worth bearing in mind, but which they could not carry out at present. As to the pollution of the brook a case had been submitted for counsel's opinion.

Mr. CHADWICK in seconding, said the Medical Officer was quite right to lay stress upon the water supply and the effect it had upon the health of the town, but when that ceased it opened the door for a great deal of illness, especially among the poorer people. He thought something might be done to stir the Water Co. up to take more energetic steps, for nothing had been done to open the mains.

Mr. FRASER thought it was time some notice should be taken of the manner in which some of the Company's men challenged the quantity of water people had from the stand pipes. It should be brought to the notice of the Company.

Mr. PIERCE said a representation ought to be sent to the Company.

The MAYOR said the severe weather had undoubtedly had a good deal to do with it, but there had been a thaw for practically a fortnight.

Mr. WILLIAMSON remarked that so far as he had seen, the Company had been most obliging and he thought they had done all they could.

Mr. PIERCE suggested that a resolution should be passed in general terms, and proposed the following:—That the great inconvenience caused to ratepayers by the scarcity of water having been brought to the knowledge of the Council, they hope the Water Company will do all they can to get the supply back to its normal condition as soon as possible.

Mr. FRASER seconded.

Dr. PALIN pointed out the difficulties of the Company, owing to the frost and the subsequent breakages in the pipes. Near his house a stand pipe had been put up, and water had been given out two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening.

The TOWN CLERK urged the necessity for a little forbearance, and said whatever they did should be in the way of a suggestion.

The resolution was agreed to, Dr. Palin and Mr. Williamson voting against it, and the report was subsequently adopted.

### SANITARY MATTERS.

Mr. C. MOORE reported having served notices for the abatement of nuisances upon a number of owners and occupiers, and stated that these had been or were being complied with. The following cases of infectious diseases had been notified during the month:—North Ward, scarlet fever, 2; South Ward, scarlet fever, 2; erysipelas, 2; East Ward, typhoid fever, 1; erysipelas, 1; West Ward, scarlet fever, 3; typhoid fever, 1; total number of cases, 11. The whole of the Urban patients in the Hospital, numbering 23, were doing well. There had been no deaths in the borough during the month from infectious disease. The number of patients in the Hospital at the beginning of the month was 24, admitted, 5; discharged, 6; at present in Hospital, 23.

The report was adopted, on the motion of Dr. PALIN, seconded by Mr. WILLIAMSON.



# DISTRICT NEWS.

## LLANGOLLEN.

**INQUIRY.**—Some time ago a petition was presented to the Education Department by the Llangollen School Board praying for an order for the compulsory acquisition of land in the town of Llangollen for a playground in connection with the Board Schools. On Friday Her Majesty's Inspector, Mr. T. Morgan Owen, held a local inquiry by direction of the Department into the propriety of the proposed order. A large number of ratepayers attended the inquiry.—Mr. Lloyd John appeared for the School Board, and Messrs. Richards opposed on behalf of the owner of the land (Mr. Dickin).—Mr. Lloyd John stated the case for the Board, and dealt with the necessity <sup>needed</sup> before the requirements of the department in the enlargement of the schools could be carried out.—The Chairman of the Board and Mr. W. G. Dodd (a member) supported the application. Messrs. Richards read a lengthy statement in opposition, and were followed by Capt. Best, after which the Inspector said he would send in his report in due course.—The inquiry then terminated.

## ST. ASAPH.

**LEGAL.**—At the January examination for honours of candidates for admission on the roll of solicitors of the Supreme Court the examination committee recommended Mr. Joseph Lloyd, jun., son of Mr. Joseph Lloyd, St. Asaph, to honorary distinction.

## BAGILLT.

**OUTBREAK OF DIPHTHERIA.**—A good deal of uneasiness has been caused at the colliery village of Bagillt, by an outbreak of diphtheria. On Saturday seven cases had been notified and one death, that of the five-year-old daughter of Mr. Grattan Thomas, chemist. The medical authorities attribute the outbreak to the insanitary state of the village. Last summer the village was visited by a very serious epidemic of typhoid fever, when some dozen deaths occurred. Over and over again the medical officer has urged the necessity of devising some means to systematically scavenge the place.

## HOLYWELL.

**SUCCESS OF A HOLYWELL GENTLEMAN.**—The only Welshman on the London County Council, is Mr. Edwin Jones, J.P., who heads the list at Peckham. Mr. Jones is the head of the firm Jones and Higgins, one of the largest drapery firms in the metropolis, and contested Peckham in the Liberal interest at the last general election. He is a native of Holywell, where his father, who is eighty-eight years of age still resides.

**SUCCESSFUL TECHNICAL CLASSES AT A WELSH CONVENT.**—At St. Clare's Convent, Pantasaph, Holywell, on Friday evening, the prizes and certificates won by the members of the classes held at the Convent School under the auspices of the Whitford centre of the Technical Education Committee of the Flintshire County council, were distributed by Lady Mostyn. The total grants earned by the class was £22 14s. Lord Mostyn was pleased that the facilities the county council had given had been taken up with such advantage and success. The Rev. T. Z. Davies proposed a vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Mostyn for their presence. The Very Rev. Father Alphonsus seconded the proposition. He said he could not help but think that it was people such as those on the Flintshire County Council who had made England come out so respectably in art—(hear, hear). He trusted the delight and appreciation of art would continue to increase.

## ABERGELE.

**ALLEGED CRUELTY BY A WELSH COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.**—At the Police Court, on Saturday, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, charged Mr. Robert William Wynne, of Garthwin Hall, Llanfairtalhaiarn, with cruelly causing to be ill-treated six horses by withholding from them sufficient food and shelter during inclement weather. Henry Owens, a servant in the employ of the defendant, was charged with a like offence. Mr. Alun Lloyd prosecuted. Police Constable Jones said he looked into a field where the defendant kept six horses and found that the ground was covered with snow on January 12th, and there was no grass or hay for the horses. He again daily saw the horses up to the 19th of January but although the ground was frozen and covered with snow not a bit of hay was given them to his knowledge and he carefully examined the field for signs of food. Inspector Hampshire, of the R.S.P.C.A., said he visited the horses on January 16th, and found that they were starving. Owens said his master did not allow him to give the hay that was in the stackyard to the animals, and that he had orders not to do so.

—Mr. T. J. Simpson, veterinary surgeon, of Ruthin, said three of the horses were in very bad condition, and all were suffering from want of food, and there was no shelter.—Inspector Wallis, of the society, stationed in London, said he waited on Mr. Wynne, at Mortlake, and he told defendant that it was said that he had given orders that the animals were not to have any of the hay. Defendant replied that he had given orders that the hay was not to be touched; as the horses did not work they did not require much food, but he would see they were attended to.—For the defence, Mr. Wallis Davies called Hugh Parry, agent to Mr. Wynne, who said he wrote to the defendant, and in reply Mr. Wynne replied that if there was snow on the ground the horses could have hay. He (witness) gave instructions to the boy to give the horses hay if there was snow on the ground, and he believed they had had it. When the weather got bad the horses were taken in.—Henry Owens gave evidence for the defence of his master, and said the horses had plenty of grass to eat.—The bench dismissed both cases, but refused costs.

## RHUDDLAN.

**INTENDED PRESENTATION.**—At a meeting on Tuesday evening the tenants on Captain Conwy's Bodrhyddan estates, together with friends, decided to present the heir, who will attain his majority at the end of this month, with a turret clock, worth 120 guineas, and a congratulatory address. The day will be observed as a general holiday.

## OVERTON.

**AMBULANCE CLASSES.**—The distribution of certificates to the candidates who successfully passed the examination of the St. John's Ambulance Association early in January, took place in Overton National School on Monday evening, last week. Mr. E. Peel, of Bryn-y-pys, gave an address, shewing the benefits of technical instruction, and the importance of being qualified to render first aid to the injured, and congratulated Dr. Richmond on the success of his classes—fourteen having passed out of fifteen. He then called on Miss Peel to distribute the certificates. The following were the recipients:—Mrs. Lewis Evans, Misses Foulger (Penley), Murphy and Wybergh, Messrs. Arrowsmith, Harry Goderich, Jenkins, R. J. Pearson, Thomas Williams, and all the officers of the Maelor constabulary, viz., Inspector Pearson (Overton), Sergt. Langdon (Hanmer), Johns, of Bronington, and Wright, of Bangor Isycoed. The Secretary, the Rev. J. W. Unwin, announced that Mr. Martindale, of Penley, had passed the final examination, and was entitled to the medalion of the Association. Mr. Martindale, on behalf of the classes, said they felt they could not allow this opportunity to pass without recognising in some way the painstaking, able, and courteous way in which Dr. Richmond had conducted the lectures preparatory to the examination. The results of the examination were the best proof of his ability as an ambulance lecturer. He had very great pleasure in asking Miss Peel to present to Dr. Richmond a silver cruet suitably inscribed, and addressing Dr. Richmond, said:—"We ask your acceptance of this small token of our respect and esteem, not for its intrinsic value, but for the many good wishes accompanying it." Dr. Richmond, in a few well-chosen words, thanked the members of the classes for the present, and Miss Peel for presenting it. He complimented those of the classes who had so skilfully rendered first aid to a man who fell and fractured his leg in the village during the recent frost. The thanks of the classes are due to Inspector Pearson, who worked hard in collecting for, and arranging, the presentation.

## LAVISTER.

**PRESENTATION TO MR. MOSS.**—At the Assembly Rooms, Lavister, on Friday, Mr. Samuel Moss, the Chairman of the Denbighshire County Council, was presented with an illuminated address and album, subscribed for by a number of the inhabitants of the district. Mr. Edward Cooper presided, and the presentation was made, on behalf of the "Liberal farmers and workmen of the townships of Allington and Burton," by Mr. George Cromar, chairman of the Presentation Committee. In doing so he spoke in terms of high praise of the excellent work done by Alderman Moss, both on behalf of the county and of that district. He asked him to accept that address and album as a small token of their gratitude for his services.—Mr. Moss, in reply, thanked them all for that token of their kindly feelings towards him, which he should always gratefully remember. He referred at some length to the question of allotments, which would, he said, enable both farmer and labourer to work under more harmonious conditions than they were doing now. The person who had the allotment would benefit, and if there were more men on the land there would be less competition amongst the men working in manufacturing towns. After dealing with the introduction of policies into County Council elections, he said his were principles of deep-rooted conviction, which he trusted would live with him as long as he lived. The position of Ruthin School under the Intermediate Education Act next received attention at the hands of the speaker, who then went on to say that for the last six years he had endeavoured to discharge his duties faithfully and conscientiously in connection with the County Council work—(hear, hear). He did not think he had given a single vote opposed to the interests of the farmers or working men in the district. If they did him the honour of returning him as their representative on Monday, he would spare neither time nor trouble in endeavouring to discharge his duties conscientiously and efficiently—(cheers). He again thanked them most heartily for that token of the kindly feeling which had always existed, and which he hoped always would exist between him and the people of Rossett—(applause).—Short addresses were given by Mr. J. Edwards, Mr. T. Parry, and others, interspersed with songs by several ladies and gentlemen.